



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Virginia Man Sentenced to Probation for Enticing a Child

WASHINGTON - Paul A. Seda, a 28-year-old consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., living in McLean, Virginia, was sentenced today by the Honorable Ann Keary, in D.C. Superior Court, to 5 years probation for Enticing a Child, announced Acting United States Attorney Channing Phillips and MPD Chief Cathy L. Lanier. Seda pled guilty to the charge in June 2009.

According to evidence presented at the plea hearing, on January 28, 2008, an individual later identified as the defendant, Paul A. Seda, initiated contact with Metropolitan Police Department Detective Morani Hines, who was in an internet chat room in an undercover capacity as part of a multi-jurisdictional operation known as the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Detective Hines identified himself as a 13-year-old girl. The defendant asked for a picture and Detective Hines forwarded to the defendant a photograph of a young girl approximately 13 years of age. The defendant and Detective Hines engaged in further conversation in which the defendant suggested they engage in various sexual acts. The defendant asked to meet and they arranged to meet the following day.

On January 29, 2008, at the agreed upon time, the defendant arrived at the designated meeting location in Northeast Washington, D.C., where he was arrested. Thereafter, Metropolitan Police Department officers and Fairfax County officers seized computers and a data storage device from the defendant's home in McLean, Virginia, which contained evidence connecting the defendant to the crime.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood and the District of Columbia MPD/FBI Child Exploitation Task Force. In February 2006, the Attorney General created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting United States Attorney Phillips and MPD Chief Lanier commended the outstanding investigative work of the joint task force consisting of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Morani Hines, Timothy Palchak, Miguel Miranda, and Jonathan Andrews. Mr. Phillips also commended Criminal Investigators John Marsh and Durand Odom, who provided forensic analysis in the case, as well as Eugena Johnson and Tiffany Jones who provided administrative support, and Ron Royal who provided litigation support. Finally, Mr. Phillips praised Assistant United States Attorney Tracey S. Lankler, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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